



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/650,629	08/28/2000	Masaru Fuku	Q60516	2240

7590

01/13/2004

Sughrue Mion Zinn Macpeak & Seas
2100 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20037

EXAMINER

BALI, VIKKRAM

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

2623

DATE MAILED: 01/13/2004

8

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/650,629

Applicant(s)

FUKU ET AL.

Examiner

Vikkram Bali

Art Unit

2623

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) Z.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. Applicant's arguments, see pages 11-13 of the remarks, filed 10/29/2003, with respect to the rejection(s) of claim(s) 1 and 8 under 35 USC 102 have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is made in view of newly found art.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

3. Claims 8-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 8-12 recites the limitation "the external means" in last line of 8-12 claims. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Art Unit: 2623

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

6. Claims 1-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Armin (FR 2784066) in view of Hsu et al (US 6100811).

With respect to claim 1, Armin discloses the finger print information capturing means (see figure 1, numerical 34), a fingerprint information storage means for pre storing at least a piece of fingerprint (see page 5, lines 33-36); a fingerprint verification

Art Unit: 2623

means (see figure 1, numerical 26, and page 6, lines 13-16); a fingerprint processing means for performing a plurality of process (see page 6, lines 10-23); and a manipulation detection means (see page 6 line 23 through page 7 line 24, also figure 1, numerical 18, 16 and 14 as the manipulation means) as claimed. However, he fails to disclose the first processing mode and a second processing mode for administering storage of information of the fingerprint information storage means, as claimed. Hsu in fingerprint actuation of customized vehicle features teaches the first processing mode and a second processing mode for administering storage of information of the fingerprint information storage means, (see col. 7, lines 27-48, the first mode being the one where the user/ primary user have the fingerprint authorized before using the vehicle and the second mode being the enrollment mode) as claimed.

It would have been obvious to one ordinary skilled in the art at the time of invention to combine the two references, as they are analogous because they are solving the similar problem of vehicle security using the fingerprint. The modes as taught by the Hsu's security system easily be put into the Armin's system as they present a processor and the processor can be program to do the various functions. This modification provides a vehicle security system that function in various modes there by making the security system more users friendly.

With respect to claims 2-5, Hsu teaches all the different modes as claimed in claims 2-5, the first mode and the second mode is the verification of the fingerprint and the enrollment modes, the third mode "delete mode" is the un-enrollment mode and the

Art Unit: 2623

fourth mode "without verification of the fingerprint" is the unlock mode, see col. 7, lines 27-50 for the details and also the col. 7, line 51 through col. 8 line 40 and col. 3 lines 19-28 for the broad explanations) as claimed.

With respect to claims 6-7, Hsu further discloses the operation unit shift, (see figure 4) and the navigation services (see figure 4, and col. 5, line 10-15 in car computer) as claimed. And the pedal is disclosed by the Armin (see figure 1, numerical 18) as claimed.

Claim 8 as best understood is rejected for the same reasons as set forth for the rejection of claim 1, as claim 8 is claiming similar subject matter as claim 1. Armin discloses the external unit (see page 8, lines 4-6) as claimed.

Claims 9-12 as best understood is rejected for the same reasons as set forth in the rejection for claims 2-7 because claims 9-12 is claiming similar subject matter as claim in claims 2-7.

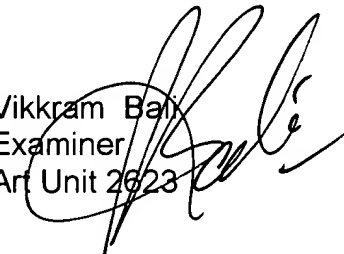
Art Unit: 2623

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Vikkram Bali whose telephone number is 703.305.4510. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30 AM - 4:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Amelia Au can be reached on 703.308.6604. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703.872.9314.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703.306.0377.

Vikkram Bali
Examiner
Art Unit 2623



Vb
January 8, 2004